

# AMERICA LAUNCHES MOST ORNAMENTAL "SPORT" COSTUMERY

Brilliant Types Indicate Return of Femininity to Clothes With Sweaters and Plaids Relegated to Background

It may be that the public is not as much concerned over the appearance or disappearance of sport clothes as those who study, make and sell women's apparel. A year ago the news came from Paris that the most distinguished makers of sport clothes had stopped the machinery for this type of work.

There is a fatuous belief in America that this segment of the Anglo-Saxon race created the type of informal costume that has ruled not only the summer, but much of the winter for the last fifteen years. The truth is that France launched the idea and created the clothes. The women of France are not athletic. There is a certain smart set that calls itself English, and therefore goes in for tennis, riding and golf; but the great bulk of French women know nothing of these sports and would not care to indulge in them. No wonder it strikes the average American woman as strange that in such a country should be developed the germ of an epidemic in sport clothes—a germ that no one could think would lodge in the French brain.

But one must remember that the French brain is peculiarly canny, very shrewd and full of vision. In the world of dress this brain has the power to create something out of air, and by the very prestige of the power behind it this thing becomes a worldwide fashion.

The canny part of the French brain was working for the exclusive French set which, several years ago, delighted to call itself English. This is an old trick among the exclusive in Paris. During the French Revolution and during the Napoleonic period everything in fashion, manners, customs and habits that could be borrowed from the neighbor across the Channel was incorporated into smart-Parisienne life. France has gone through convulsive periods of being "English." It is too early to say whether or not the mass of the British army living within her doors for four years will make her more "English."

But this is for the future. The fact is that when the exclusive set began to imitate their British neighbors in taking up the appearance, if not the actuality, of sport, Chanel, one of the leading French designers, saw her opportunity to create a new form of apparel.

It brought her millions. It permitted her to play in whatever realms of sartorial fancy she chose. Now she declares that she has stopped the machinery for this kind of work.

The British women, more than any others, wore these clothes for actual sport activities. It was no pose with them, as it was in France and in America. The "sport" clothes were worn as a mockery of the real thing, and they were worn to tea, to afternoon weddings, and to all those gay occasions that call for a better form of dress.

In this country we abused sport clothes. They were clever in the beginning. They were like the tailored suit—comfortable, smart looking and serviceable; and like the tailored suit, they were overdone.

It will be difficult to wear a million or more young women—and, unfortunately, their older companions—away from the plaid skirt, the bright sweater and the untripped hat as a constant choice of apparel between April and October.

Such clothes are worn by women who do not know a golf ball from a highball, do not own an automobile, would not go to a picnic, and think a

tennis racket is something with which to catch bugs. It is this type of apparel that the designers have tried to suppress. It is the kind of informal, expensive finery that the leaders of fashion put out of first fashion two years ago.

All the world unites in the opinion that sport clothes should be worn for sports, and that a woman should develop the most comfortable costume for the type of activity in which she most indulges. She cannot play tennis in a flounced frock, do eighteen holes of golf in a georgette gown, or ride horseback in a chemise frock of velvet.

As long as the American woman remains intensely athletic the shops find plenty to sell. It is well that they are suppressed in their desire to sell nothing else during six months of the year.

**Cocquettish Clothes To-day.** The world has shown an express desire to see women dressed in a feminine manner. It is the psychology of the hour. The dressmakers have caught it; the women are catching it. It will prevail.

Those of us who have stood on the sidelines and watched the game of fashion have foreseen this change of heart for a year and have preached it often.

Of course, there are still millions of sweaters, plaid skirts and sport hats to be bought by those who need them, and there are thousands of salespeople to offer them; but the leaders, those who have vision, created a new type of costume last December which carries the name "sport" through tradition.

Absurd as these things seem under the name of sport clothes, they show definitely the path which the world is treading.

One does not link a sportsman's idea of sport clothes with a flounced printed silk frock, white buckskin slippers with silver buckles, and an outside blouse of cream net over thin colored Chinese silk run with rows of lace insertion and girdled with a colored ribbon. And one can easily see her derisive smile at the sight of a balloon skirt of pale blue georgette lined with Van Dyck points of blue taffeta, hobbled at the hem, and gathereled at the hips under a gypsy sash of blue taffeta which is knotted at one side and fringed at the ends.

Of course, these are not sport clothes; the absurd part of it is that those who design them have not the courage to omit the word "sport." They are afraid commercially. But in creating clothes which are feminine, alluring and suitable for the sun, shine, the open air and country life, they have shown that they are psychologists and that they have caught the trend of the hour. They are merely entangled in a commercial net of the last decade, and that is why they launch these clothes under a misused, much abused name.

**Glorified Sport Clothes.** Whenever the pendulum swings in a certain direction it has the force of a magnet in bringing all particles and units along with it. Everything moves in its direction, even if some things go faster than others.

This is particularly true of women's apparel. The moment our country clothes became the kind of thing we associate with English garden parties, our actual sport clothes were pulled along in the same direction.

The commonplace garments which served for golf and tennis were supplanted by things that were unusual and eccentric.

The fashion for leather was responsible for the new type of golf clothes which individual women wore this



One of the new brilliant golf suits made of tan suede embroidered in an Indian design in red and black is shown on the left. The bolero jacket ties in front with velvet ribbon, and the wide cuffs are fastened back with suede buttons. In the center is an outdoor costume with skirt of Seves blue silk jersey, which has hem of drawn work embroidered with pink silk floss; worn with pink silk jersey which has round collar and elbow sleeves. On the right is a smart costume for the country. The white satin skirt has a deep flounce of Georgette embroidered with black silk, and the tight fitting cuirass of black silk jersey fastens down the back and has a high wrinkled collar.

spring. The scarcity and high price of leather during the war did not prevent it from becoming exceedingly fashionable. We were not permitted to have a glove, for the plaid and chevron skirts that had done duty for a decade.

They also substituted the fitting leather jackets for sweaters and loose leather jackets with many pockets for velours and cloth coats. They wore hats of leather instead of felt.

When the spring arrived and the tourists forsook the Southern haunts, they utilized these leather clothes for country life, for bad weather, and especially for motoring. They will probably remain in first favor for the latter type of outdoor pleasure.

The success of the tan leather

brought up the experiment in suede golf clothes. Suede is softer and cooler for summer than the brown leather, although it is exceedingly supple.

As an evidence of the new trend in sport clothes these suede suits show brilliant embroidery. Now that, mind you, is a step forward. What the earnest minded golfers on the British

recently returned to this country from overseas service. The ceremony was performed by Dean Howard C. Robbins of the Cathedral at 4 o'clock. There was no reception. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a gown of white satin trimmed with silver embroidery and made with a silver brooch. She wore a veil fastened with orange blossoms and carried white roses and lilies of the valley. Her young bridesmaid, Miss Corbett, was her flower girl and wore white net and carried a basket of forget-me-nots. The bride's nephew, James Shelton, was the ring bearer. J. E. McGillicuddy served as best man and John Miller, Edmund Searing and Harry Gilbert of this city and Donald Barry of Houston, Tex., were the ushers.

The honeymoon will be spent in Atlantic City. Capt. Langstaff and his bride will make their future home in Tacoma, Ky. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Langstaff of that city.

The wedding of Miss Ruth Hillard, daughter of the Rev. Lyman Richard Hartley, pastor of the Fort George Presbyterian Church, took place Thursday evening at 8 o'clock and was followed by a reception and supper in the assembly room of the church. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Daniel Hoffman Martin of the same church and the invitations were limited to actual members of the church, relatives and a few intimate friends of the bride and bridegroom, who have known each other since childhood. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Hillard of 54 West 185th street and Westfield, N. J. She was graduated from Barnard College and was treasurer of the Fort George Christian Endeavor Society. The Rev. Mr. Hartley is the son of the late Rev. Richard Hartley, who was pastor of the Hope Baptist Church, which was recently consolidated with the Wadsworth Avenue Baptist Church. He was graduated from the New York University and the Union Theological Seminary.

Miss Marietta Elizabeth Rierden, daughter of Mrs. A. Rierden, was married Wednesday evening to Lawrence Frederick Krantz of this city. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. A. Rierden, 11 East Eighty-seventh street, and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Knish of the Church of St. Ignace Loyola. The bride wore a traveling costume of dark blue cloth with hat to correspond and carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley. Her bridesmaid, Miss Corbett, was her flower girl and wore white net and carried a basket of forget-me-nots. The bride's nephew, James Shelton, was the ring bearer. J. E. McGillicuddy served as best man and John Miller, Edmund Searing and Harry Gilbert of this city and Donald Barry of Houston, Tex., were the ushers.

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Suede Suits Embroidered in Indian Colors, Tight Cuirass Blouses, Skirts of Embroidered Satin Now in Order

and the Scotch hank would think of a pale tan suede coat suit embroidered in an Indian design in red and black would give the wearer an object lesson in the art of decoration; but the fact remains that American women will wear these suits on the wind swept and sun baked links of our summer resorts.

The skirt of such a suit is as short as the most formal afternoon gown worn by a smart Frenchwoman, and that means much. Beneath its elaborate folds are worn the ribbed woolen sport stockings of the hour, and the suede and leather trimmed Oxfords which are considered smart when they match the color of the suit.

The jacket, in order to give as little warmth and discomfort as possible, is merely a trifle in the form of a bolero. It ties at the neckline in front with velvet ribbon and its wide cuffs roll back from the arm and fasten with suede buttons in order to keep from falling.

Cream colored blouses of heavy Chinese silk are worn with these suits. They fall negligently over a low waistband loosely placed on the skirt, and their embroidery takes its tone from Indian pottery.

By the way, an individual woman has invented a new type of golf hat, which deserves to be imitated by milliners or copied at home. It is nothing but a visor made of straw and lined with green to protect the eyes, and it is tied about the head with a broad ribbon of colored taffeta. The wearing of a ribbon band to keep the hair in place when playing is an old story, but the use of the kind of visor that is worn in tennis to protect the eyes from electric lights is a clever idea. One's hair gets the benefit of the air and yet the eyes are shielded from the glare of the hot sun.

Those who design seasonal clothes know that a large majority of women will not take up with enthusiasm the idea of wearing soft, frilled fanciful clothes throughout summer days. Yet these women realize that the sweater and separate skirt, though worn, are not the smart choice, so they compromise; they therefore they are interesting, for they represent something new.

For instance a white satin skirt with a deep flounce of white Georgette heavily embroidered with brilliant flowers in black silk, worn with a tight fitting cuirass of black silk jersey fastened down the back with white buttons, is surely out of the commonplace. Yet it is one of the smart costumes for country life. It is worn with a black poke hat of the Directoire period, which is trimmed with aggressive and impudent white wings standing out at eccentric angles.

The color even indulges in the audacity of a high wrinkled collar with a white organdy turn-over that envelops the chin and the lobes of the ears. We are not used to this type of neck covering for our alleged sport clothes, and its appearance on a tall, slim woman gives one an instant impression of

an exceedingly smart fashion. It may be a trifle uncomfortable on a warm day, but for a nation of women who wear peltry in August nothing can be sufficiently uncomfortable to be unbearable if it is otherwise agreeable.

So ornate have our outdoor clothes become that we have adopted some of those delicate pastel color schemes that might have flickered through the walks of Versailles in the eighteenth century when great ladies played at being simple.

There is one such costume which has a short silk jersey skirt in Savoy blue, with a deep hem of drawn work over which is cast a bold embroidery of pink silk floss. This ornamentation is most attractive. It gives one the impression of climbing roses on a lattice work in the country.

Above this blue skirt with its pink foliage is a tight-fitting pink silk jersey, with elbow sleeves, a round collar and immense cuffs. The waistline is defined by a blue velvet ribbon carefully tied in front.

Do not make the mistake of supposing that these new blouses are like sweaters. They are like the original garment exploited by Mrs. Langtry when she was called the Jersey Lily. The exquisite proportions of the new Jersey figure would be immediately changed by a corsetiere of today, for the female form changes its fashion, like female clothes.

But the tightness of the jersey has come back into fashion. It outlines the flat, curveless, low bustled figure of the Victorian woman. When possible the jersey slips over the head and shrinks quickly into the lines of the figure; when this is not possible it is fastened down the back or hooked at the side.

This tight fitting jersey is new but it is not the only type that the individual designers offer. Informality is at its height in what is known as the "bathing suit" blouse. It is offered for the country and, furthermore, it is worn.

It is loose, negligent and exceedingly informal with its lack of collar and sleeves. It is tied about the waist to keep it on and it is slashed at the sides to the line of the bust in order to give a brilliant lining a chance to make itself known.

Truly we are a gay people in the country lanes this season.

**PONGEE AGAIN.** As sure as the coming of summer ponce in some form appears, the year there are to be lovely ponce parasols. Some are mounted on brown frames and sticks, with no other trimming than brown cords on the handles and brown tassels on the ends. Another shows lovely blue butterfly embroidered all over the inside of the parasol with blue cord and blue ends to the sticks.

**LINEN WAISTCOATS.** Linen waistcoats are sold now in many of the shops, all ready to slip into the new—or old—spring suit.

Some of them are of colored linen—blue or rose or tan—and some are of white. The white usually have plaids of color. Some of them, too, have colored belts of silk or rayon ribbon.

Some of the others present and who were at the tea tables were Mrs. William H. Tansell, Miss Elizabeth Tansell, Mrs. Otto Tansell, Mrs. O. Tansell, Mrs. A. Dittmar and Mrs. H. G. Heide. In addition to Mrs. Charles the officers of Robinson are Mrs. Charles F. Terhune, Mrs. Harry G. Terhune and Mrs. William H. Tansell.

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## NEW PARIS FASHIONS LIGHT AND GRACEFUL

By MRS. M. E. CLARKE.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN and the Public Ledger.

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PARIS, May 17.

THE dress events of recent days have been the race meetings at Maisons-Laffitte and Longchamps. The weather was fine and warm, so that the women were encouraged to put on lighter dresses and more fragile millinery than hitherto has been possible. The result was that mixed with seasonable tailor made dresses and capes. The models shown, although skimpy to indiscretion, are remarkably picturesque when well worn.

There is something so light and graceful in the draperies and such a suggestion of spring in the flutter of their ribbons and laces that the sternest of moralists and the least coquettish of women are inclined to show leniency to the lack of width and length of skirt as well as the emphasized economy of material in some of the bodices when expressed in very thin decollete and sleeves no longer than a man's shirt cuff.

Quite simple dresses were given a barbaric air by being trimmed with scarves, straggling fur fringes or shredded cloth or rough wool, and even ragged leather. The same trimmings were seen on cloaks and even on hats, and the use of strange patches, tortured out of the likeness to any bird's plumage, added greatly to the barbaric note. The wearing of clothes this spring is quite different from the way clothes were worn a year ago, and the peculiar roll and wriggle of the fashionable walk may be

Skirts Up to Knees and Sleeves Like Men's Cuffs Are Among the Daring Models

by the rage for dancing fox trots and tangos.

To the credit of dressmakers and women generally, there is no suggestion of tasteless anywhere. The pendulum of taste has swung too far in the other direction, and the fashionable figure inclines to be untidy. Very slim women can carry themselves gracefully without corsets, but otherwise a restraining whalebone or two is necessary.

**Silk Stockings a Feature.** Another outstanding feature of women's dress this season is silk stockings. The price is appalling and the quality questionable, but now that skirts have retired to the knees the stocking must be looked upon as quite as important as the hat. The fashionable stocking is transparent and sometimes has wonderful lace insertions. Of all shades that of flesh color is the most affected by the youthful Parisienne. She has also worn white with black clocks. The general silhouette shows a dark tailor made with a turban toque, flesh colored silk stockings and feet in single strapped, black patent leather shoes with high heels.

The reason for the transparency is that a very thin stocking makes thick ankles look slim and slim ankles yet slimmer. Older and less venturesome women wear stockings in shades to tone with their dresses and practical every day women wear brown shoes or boots with a tailor made and black with a visiting frock.

Tailor made are in two kinds of material, plain and figured; a plain serge coat with plain skirt, collar and cuffs, plain tweeds with check skirt and

others with stripes. With them were worn long waistcoats of cream or colored satin fastened or silk jersey.

Dresses varied greatly, and so did capes with which they were covered. Satin was the most popular, and always either black or brown in color. The capes were all beautifully and brilliantly lined and each had its own particular kind of collar as the mark of the designer's hand. Black and white dresses were also seen, and they have the advantage of being light and comfortable. They slip over the head and have no complications in hooks or buttons.

**Colors Favored in Hats.** In millinery black remains the chosen wear for ceremonious visits, but for morning shopping, in the country, for tennis and other outdoor amusements there is a marked tendency to colors. Black silk hats of the cabriolet shape have colored linings. Black crowns of straw have brims of colors, turbans are made in colored silks, straw and tulle, and there are many little toques in ribbon with loops of ribbon over one ear as trimming, or some weird feather. They are worn on the head and need no pins or bows for ceremonious visits in straw with parade plumes, in tulle and in satin or all tulle. It has a brim which turns up from the face or at the sides or waves limply over the face. Sunshades were opened at the recess, but beyond being pretty they were not noticeable. The new ones will be Di-retoire in shape and the handles will show some novelty in design. Bags are either very decorative to carry with silk dresses and long capes or they are as severely fashioned as leather purses, long and slim, to carry in the hand. Decorative bags are in the hand. Decorative bags are in the hand. Decorative bags are in the hand.

others with stripes. With them were worn long waistcoats of cream or colored satin fastened or silk jersey.

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**Colors Favored in Hats.** In millinery black remains the chosen wear for ceremonious visits, but for morning shopping, in the country, for tennis and other outdoor amusements there is a marked tendency to colors. Black silk hats of the cabriolet shape have colored linings. Black crowns of straw have brims of colors, turbans are made in colored silks, straw and tulle, and there are many little toques in ribbon with loops of ribbon over one ear as trimming, or some weird feather. They are worn on the head and need no pins or bows for ceremonious visits in straw with parade plumes, in tulle and in satin or all tulle. It has a brim which turns up from the face or at the sides or waves limply over the face. Sunshades were opened at the recess, but beyond being pretty they were not noticeable. The new ones will be Di-retoire in shape and the handles will show some novelty in design. Bags are either very decorative to carry with silk dresses and long capes or they are as severely fashioned as leather purses, long and slim, to carry in the hand. Decorative bags are in the hand. Decorative bags are in the hand.

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